

## **BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN**

**December 4, 2001**

**7:30 PM  
Aldermanic Chambers  
City Hall (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)**

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Wihby, Gatsas, Levasseur (late), Sysyn, Pinard, O'Neil, Lopez,  
Shea, Vaillancourt, Pariseau, Cashin, Thibault, Hirschmann

Alderman Clancy being deceased, there was no representation for Ward 5.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Baines advised if you desire to remove any of the following items from the Consent Agenda, please so indicate. If none of the items are to be removed, one motion only will be taken at the conclusion of the presentation.

### **Minutes Accepted**

- A. Minutes of meetings held on August 7, 2001; August 7, 2001 continuance held on August 14, 2001; August 13, 21 and 27, 2001; and September 4, 2001 (two meetings).

### **Informational – to be Received and Filed**

- B. Communication from the City Clerk submitting the official results of the November 6, 2001 Municipal General Election.
- D. Communication from the State Department of Environmental Services advising of the approval of a wetlands application by the City's Department of Aviation.
- E. Communication from the State Department of Health and Human Services, Juvenile Justice Services Division advising of the release of Title V grant monies noting governments are eligible to apply for this money and must be the fiscal agent responsible for same.
- F. Copy of a communication from the State Department of Transportation advising of contemplated awards.
- H. Copy of a communication from James Coughlin to the Mayor's Office relative to his dissatisfaction with the so-called fair market revaluation.

**Informational – to be referred to the Finance and Highway Departments**

- I. Communications from the State Department of Environmental Services seeking submittal of information no later than December 31, 2001 relative to the 2001 and 2002 Local Governmental Financial Test for Manchester Municipal Solid Waste Unlined Landfill Permit No. DES-SW-TP-97-009.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**COMMITTEE ON BILLS ON SECOND READING**

- L. Recommending that Ordinance Amendment:

“Amending the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Manchester by extending the B-2 (General Business) zoning district southerly to include the remaining portions of two lots on Loring Street and two lots on Faltin Drive, in an area currently zoned IND (General Industrial).”

ought to pass.

- M. Recommending that Ordinance Amendment:

“Amending Section 38.06 Citation Penalties of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester by establishing and increasing citation penalties for certain offenses.”

ought to pass.

**HAVING READ THE CONSENT AGENDA, ON MOTION OF ALDERMAN O'NEIL, DULY SECONDED BY ALDERMAN PARISEAU, IT WAS VOTED THAT THE CONSENT AGENDA BE APPROVED.**

- C. Copies of communications from the City Clerk to the Secretary of State providing certification relating to the recording of amendments to the City Charter, which were passed by voters on November 6, 2001.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated this is a letter that City Clerk Bernier sent to Secretary of State Gardner regarding the redrawing of the Manchester lines and I wanted to take this opportunity just to inform the Board and the citizens of Manchester that the House Redistricting Committee has finished its work regarding the representation for Manchester based on these new lines that were drawn and I think the citizens of Manchester, this Board and the Committee that worked on this are to be congratulated for drawing the lines in such a manner that the House Redistricting Committee could go forward with its work in a satisfactory manner. Manchester was a City that complied with the State wishes to have the wards drawn evenly. Not all cities and towns did this. Portsmouth, for example, did not. Some wards in Portsmouth are much larger than others and it was a very difficult process for the Redistricting Committee to establish the State Representatives in Portsmouth. For those

of you who are interested, Manchester currently has 36 State Representatives, which splits up evenly at 12 wards and 3 per ward. With the new population over the past 10 years, although Manchester grew it did not grow as rapidly as the State as a whole so we have lost one representative and we are down to 35. The proposal put forth by the House Redistricting Committee and I believe it was a 19-2 vote, is for Wards 1-9 to all have three State Representatives for a total of 27. For Wards 10, 11 and 12, which you may recall have slightly less population, to have 2 State Representatives each which gets you up to 33 and the other two State Representatives will be split between wards 10, 11 and 12. This was a proposal that was accepted by everybody except two members of that committee. What it means basically is that wards 1-9 will have three State Representatives each and wards 10, 11 and 12 will have 2  $\frac{2}{3}$  representatives. This does fall within the delineation, the marks that have been allowed by the State. It is something that will work. They believed that it was the best way to do this. Again, just for information purposes, for those of you who do not like this idea it is not a done deal. The recommendation, and all 10 counties are in now from that Redistricting Committee, will go to the House Election Law Committee for hearings I believe sometime in January and then of course it will have to be passed by the entire House and Senate and be signed by the Governor. The general consensus was that it was probably the best plan for Manchester that could be arrived at considering that we had to lose one representative. I congratulate the people of Manchester who voted to keep the wards fairly evenly distributed and I think we will probably go forward with this but anybody should watch and come to Concord if they want to voice their opinion on how the delineation's work out.

On motion of Alderman Vaillancourt, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau, it was voted to receive and file this item.

**G.** Communication from AT&T Broadband advising of upcoming pricing and programming changes to certain AT&T Broadband services.

Alderman Wihby stated I got a few phone calls from taxpayers who were concerned with the rates increasing. Can we advertise for a new company or can we tell them that they can't do it? What can we do to stop these rates from going up?

Alderman Pariseau stated we have no control on the rates and we have a 10-year contract with AT&T Broadband. We can't control the price increase.

Alderman Wihby asked can we advertise for another company to come in to town.

Alderman Pariseau answered I don't think we can.

Alderman Gatsas stated we can invite or anybody who would like to come certainly has that ability but they must string their own lines and we can't give them a better deal than what AT&T Broadband has right now. They must pay what is in that contract. I think you will

find it virtually impossible for somebody to compete by stringing new lines and certainly if somebody is out there looking to do it, I welcome them forward to take a look at it. There are companies out there but for the penetration of the market that they need to make it make sense going from pole to pole I think that is really what the prohibitive cost is.

Alderman Shea stated I believe that in Congress this was debated and it is a free enterprise kind of situation where they can charge what they want. Next year if they want to go up on their rates they can. It is not regulated by any kind of State or Federal law so we are at the mercy of them and I think that we knew that before we adopted this 10 year contract.

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Lopez, it was voted to receive and file this item.

- J.** Communication from the Deputy Finance Officer advising of the receipt of \$50.00 towards the D.A.R.E. Program from the Manchester Area Retired Teachers Association.
- K.** Communication from the Building Maintenance Superintendent advising of the offer of a donation of electrical stock, with an estimated value of \$2,500.00, from Lightec, Inc.

Alderman Wihby stated we are getting something from people and I was wondering if we actually or if you send them a letter or we just accept the money. We should be sending letters from this Board or from you, your Honor, thanking them for any donations.

Mayor Baines replied I believe the Clerk's Office usually...well we take care of thank you letters and I will ask David to make a note of that.

On motion of Alderman Wihby, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to accept the funds presented in items J and K, and remand same for the purposes intended.

Mayor Baines made the following nomination:

**Manchester Housing Authority**

Marie Donohoe to succeed herself, term to expire December 31, 2006.

On motion of Alderman Cashin, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau, it was voted to suspend the rules and confirm the nomination of Marie Donohoe to the Manchester Housing Authority, term to expire December 31, 2006.

A report of the Committee on Lands and Buildings was presented recommending that a request of Marjam Supply, located at 275 Mammoth Road for permission to install a fence along a portion of the Portsmouth rail line be granted and approved subject to conditions set forth in a communication from the Director of Planning, which includes: contingent upon final transfer of the property to the City from the State; recording of a "Revocable License" as opposed to other forms of easements or such other document deemed appropriate by the City Solicitor; Parks and Recreation shall verify the final location in the field prior to installation to insure that there will be no obstructions; and such fence shall be subject to appropriate permits as may be required. This would all be subject to the review and approval of the City Solicitor.

On motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Alderman Thibault, it was voted to accept, receive and adopt the report.

A report of the Committee on Traffic/Public Safety was presented recommending that a request from the Olympic Torch Relay Committee to close Elm Street between Merrimack and Central Street and Pleasant Street from Elm to Franklin Street from 10:30 AM until 5:50 PM on Friday, December 28, 2001 be granted and approved under the direct supervision of the City Clerk, Fire, Highway, Police, Traffic and Risk Departments.

On motion of Alderman Sysyn, duly seconded by Alderman Lopez, it was voted to accept, receive and adopt the report.

A report of the Committee on Traffic/Public Safety was presented rescinding resident parking only in areas surrounding the civic center and installing parking two hours in those zones in accordance with Section 25 when duly posted.

Alderman Sysyn moved to accept, receive, and adopt the report. Alderman Pariseau duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Sysyn stated this came about because I had a lot of phone calls on the resident parking only. You have signs there that say resident parking only. I have people who are trying to visit their handicapped relatives who don't have a car so they don't get resident parking but when the people go visit their parents, etc. they get a \$15 parking ticket. I was shopping at the Bridge Market just before Thanksgiving and had I been in the wrong spot I would have gotten a \$15 parking ticket. I got a call today from one of the businesses on Pine and Spruce. He has four or five parking spots behind his business. They can't park in front of his business or they will get a \$15 parking ticket. What you are doing is you are rescinding it. It is the residents who want this. Their original petition was for two-hour parking or parking meters. They don't mind if you have parking meters as long as they can have company.

Alderman Wihby asked is this because of the civic center. Are they concerned with people going to the civic center parking there?

Alderman Sysyn answered originally, yes.

Alderman Wihby asked and they are not concerned anymore so...

Alderman Sysyn interjected they are concerned with their company getting \$15 parking tickets.

Alderman Wihby stated so they would rather let the civic center park there and not have any parking for themselves.

Alderman Sysyn replied well people are only going to be able to park there for two hours.

Alderman Wihby asked do the residents who park there park for more than two hours themselves.

Alderman Sysyn answered they have resident parking stickers.

Alderman Wihby replied well they won't anymore.

Alderman Sysyn responded yes they can still get their resident parking stickers. They still have their resident parking but you won't have the signs there saying that nobody else can park there.

Alderman Wihby asked so residents can park there.

Alderman Sysyn answered yes and you need to have more publicity on this because some of the residents don't realize that they have to go to City Hall to get their resident parking sticker.

Deputy Clerk Johnson replied it is my understanding that the physical action taken by the Committee was rescinding the resident parking. If this report passes as it has been submitted there would no longer be resident parking and the Board doesn't have the authority to change it. It would have to go back to the Committee on Traffic.

Alderman Sysyn stated we did make that amendment. They have their resident parking stickers just the same. Later on we will put parking meters there but this is like what you have at Amoskeag Place. It is the same place.

Mayor Baines stated I was at that meeting and I believe Alderman Hirschmann brought up that issue and clarified that motion at the meeting.

Alderman Hirschmann replied correct. In order to vote on that I made sure that was part of the motion.

Deputy Clerk Johnson asked that resident parking remain.

Alderman Hirschmann answered yes that the resident parking would remain but the meters would be put in so they could both park there.

Alderman Sysyn stated it is the signs that have to come down. That is what we are looking for.

Mayor Baines stated we can clarify this if you need it clarified for the record.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated in essence because it is a traffic report it cannot be amended by the Board and that is why I am trying to clarify this now and I was not in attendance at that meeting. I guess I would ask from the members of the Traffic Committee who made the motion.

Alderman Lopez replied as members of the Traffic Committee we can amend the report and give it back to the full Board. Permit parking was part of the deal. It got lost some place. So the permit parking is there. The only thing we want to do is take the signs down.

Deputy Clerk Johnson responded if I have concurrence from the members of the Traffic Committee as a poll of the Committee at this time, I can take that as being that the resident parking is to remain and we can change the report to reflect that. If there is a concurrence of the Committee that that was the understanding then I will do that.

The members of the Traffic Committee concurred.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated then we will change the report.

Alderman Wihby asked so you are not rescinding the resident parking and there will still be resident parking there but there just won't be any signs that say resident parking and instead we are going to have signs up that say parking two hours.

Alderman Sysyn answered right until they can get the parking meters in.

Alderman Wihby stated so people who live there can park and have their stickers and if their friends come they can only park there for two hours. If anybody going to the civic center wants to park there they can park there for two hours and fill up all the spots and the residents won't have any parking.

Alderman Sysyn replied that could happen also. What happened is Tom Lolicata does not have enough parking meters right now and that was another amendment that Keith Hirschmann came up with later on. We will put the parking meters in next year because he doesn't have them yet.

Alderman Wihby asked what was wrong with giving them resident stickers so that they could put them on their cars.

Alderman Sysyn answered they still have those.

Alderman Wihby asked I mean for them to give to their visitors. We didn't want to do that?

Alderman Sysyn answered no.

Mayor Baines asked the Clerk to clarify the report.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated based on the way the ordinance was adopted by this Board for resident parking, it will still have to be posted as resident parking and I just want to make that clear but it can be posted as resident parking and two hour zones. What we will do is change this report. This report will no longer say rescind resident parking, it will merely say resident parking. Prior to this it said resident parking only so we will make a reference to that and the rest will be parking two hours.

Alderman Sysyn responded but you don't need the signs.

Deputy Clerk Johnson replied the ordinance requires that it is posted.

Alderman Levasseur stated for a point of clarification we have residential parking on the East Side of Manchester and we don't have signs up. On West Merrimack Street there is a residential parking program and we don't have signs.

Deputy Clerk Johnson replied the ordinance that established that was done differently. I need to go back and look at that ordinance. There still needs to be signage that says resident parking allowed.

Alderman Levasseur stated I would like to make a point because one of the questions, your Honor, and obviously your office has been getting inundated and my home has been getting inundated with calls from that neighborhood. Rowe Street, Bell Street and Green Street, which are a few streets down have also been having problems. We didn't think, when we first put those signs up, that people would walk that far to the civic center. Well people have been finding free parking over in that area so I will ask and I know that it won't be done at this meeting, that those streets also be allowed to have the residential parking so that people will stay out of that area and come up closer to the parking garages and hopefully park in the Elm Street area. I do agree that this is a good first step to fixing up what was going on down there.



Deputy Clerk Johnson asked Tom Lolicata to come forward. Could you advise the Clerk as to whether or not this was intended to be a metered zone when it is all said and done? Is this going to be metered at all?

Mr. Lolicata answered my understanding tonight after the Traffic Committee because of the complaints that came in they were going to rescind the parking there for residents and put in two hour parking until such time next year as I can put the meters in.

Deputy Clerk Johnson asked so the metered parking will come back to the Traffic Committee in the next session so right now it would be set-up as a two hour zone with resident parking permitted so that means it will have to be addressed as resident parking permitted as well so that people are aware of both. You are not tying it to meters and that is the difference. The other zones have meters so they are allowed to talk in a meter and that is why it needs to be posted still so the signage will have to be changed to two hours or resident parking. I can work with Mr. Lolicata on that tomorrow.

Alderman Hirschmann stated that report that you just gave does not address the Chairwoman's concern that company can come and visit the residents and the reason we made the modified parking zone is so company could come and park in that zone.

Deputy Clerk Johnson replied all it will allow is two-hour parking and resident parking as it stands now.

Mayor Baines stated I think that addresses the concern.

Alderman Hirschmann asked so they can come for two hours.

Deputy Clerk Johnson answered yes.

Mayor Baines called for a vote on the amended report. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### Ordinances:

“Amending the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Manchester by extending the B-2 (General Business) zoning district southerly to include the remaining portions of two lots on Loring Street and two lots on Faltin Drive, in an area currently zoned IND (General Industrial).”

“Amending Section 38.06 Citation Penalties of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester by establishing and increasing citation penalties for certain offenses.”

On motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau, it was voted to read the Ordinances by titles only, and it was so done.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated before I read the Ordinances, I want to note that Alderman O'Neil has requested to be recorded as abstaining from the vote on Item L on the consent agenda.

Alderman Pariseau voted that the Ordinances pass and be Enrolled. Alderman Thibault duly seconded the motion.

Mayor Baines called for a vote. The motion carried with Aldermen Levasseur and O'Neil abstaining from the first ordinance.

On motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to recess the regular meeting to allow the Committee on Accounts, Enrollment and Revenue Administration to meet.

Mayor Baines called the meeting back to order.

A report of the Committee on Accounts, Enrollment and Revenue Administration was presented advising that Ordinances:

“Amending the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Manchester by extending the B-2 (General Business) zoning district southerly to include the remaining portions of two lots on Loring Street and two lots on Faltin Drive, in an area currently zoned IND (General Industrial).”

“Amending Section 38.06 Citation Penalties of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester by establishing and increasing citation penalties for certain offenses.”

were properly enrolled.

Alderman Pariseau moved to accept, receive and adopt the report. Alderman Vaillancourt duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated we are moving along so efficiently here that perhaps we should just go through with this but I think people do have a right to know that this is, in fact, what most people have been here talking about which is the attempt by Shaws to get the rezoning so that they can do that. We should also note, however, that this is not something that goes ahead and allows the roads to be built and reconstruction and all of that. This is simply an attempt to change the zoning things and I think there has been a lot of information, at least in my area, that has been going out perhaps even on people's mailboxes over the weekend because I did get a lot of calls on this and I believe the people who were putting the information out were attempting to get the Board not to do this, not to have Shaws come in

but if, in fact, that is true it seems to have backfired because the overwhelming majority of the people that called me have favored this saying that we need to go forward to provide entree for Shaws to come in and that this is the kind of thing that will bring more competition. I am certainly in favor of this as the first step or maybe one of many steps that will lead to this and I assume that you will be taking other steps in the future. I think this is an important first step and I am happy to second it.

Mayor Baines called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Discussion relative to a proposed Senior Center.

Mayor Baines stated based upon the events that recently transpired with Notre Dame College I want to advise the Board that I have scheduled a meeting on Thursday at 9 AM with representatives from Notre Dame College to discuss their properties and the possible uses by the City and pending this new information, especially the issue of the property on Elm Street, which surfaced in discussions here at City Hall last week and I also appreciated receiving Alderman Gatsas' letter, we had initiated some discussions relative to that property and I would ask that any discussions relative to the senior center wait until after the discussion with them and we will report back to the Board as soon as we get additional information on the properties. To be quite frank with you, I have no idea what they want to do with the property and whether, in fact, they would entertain an offer from the City. We hope to have some discussion. I have had discussions with the President of the College and I have also had conversations with Dr. Dupuis and Pat Duffey last week about this. That is my plan going forward. Attending the meeting with me this week will be Jay Taylor, Bob MacKenzie and Frank Thomas.

Alderman Lopez stated I would just like to state that I am concerned about the other sites that the Committee that you have appointed are looking at. We would absolutely be delighted to have the Notre Dame building, but I hope that the information is given on the other sites at the same time.

Mayor Baines replied absolutely.

Alderman Pariseau asked does this property revert back to the Diocese, your Honor.

Mayor Baines answered I am not aware of any situation with the property.

Alderman Pariseau replied if it does I would have a chat with Bishop McCormack to see if he would be willing to make that donation to the City.

Mayor Baines responded I don't believe that the Diocese is involved. What I have read is it is the Sisters of the Holy Cross. We are going to enter into discussions and find out exactly what the opportunities may be and we will definitely report back to the Board.

Alderman Hirschmann stated before this opportunity arose you had another train of thought. What was that?

Mayor Baines replied we were focusing on the West Side and the site of the present center. We have looked at a number of different proposals. One that includes incorporating the existing building and building a freestanding facility and looking at the possible acquisition of property and looking at a way to solve the West Side Library issue. That has all been part of the discussion. We have had discussions with Barbara representing Elderly Services and we feel that we will be in a position at the next meeting to come forward with some options to present to this Board. It had been my desire because of the work that had been done by this Board to get this issue before this Board and that is still my plan at this time. I thought with the Notre Dame issue coming up we had a responsibility to explore all of the options as well.

Alderman Wihby asked are you talking about Elm and Brook for the senior center.

Mayor Baines answered that is right.

Alderman Wihby asked when you are talking to them are you going to be talking about the regular campus and what they plan on doing with that also.

Mayor Baines answered yes. We will discuss all of their properties.

Copy of a communication from Alderman Levasseur to the Chairman of the Board of Assessors requesting that a presentation be made to the full Board relative to the revaluation conducted by CLT.

On motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau, it was voted to receive and file this item.

Communication from Aldermen Pariseau and O'Neil proposing that any individual who has served the City as an alderman for a period of 25 years be allowed to continue participation in the City's health insurance program under the same terms and conditions as others upon leaving office.

Mayor Baines asked should this be referred to the Committee on Human Resources.

Alderman Pariseau moved to approve the request. Alderman O'Neil duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Gatsas stated I guess the Human Resources Director is here. Can you tell me if our plan accommodates this?

Ms. Virginia Lamberton stated am not clear as to what they are trying to do.

Alderman Pariseau replied it would allow the insurance to be carried forward. Whatever is happening now he would continue.

Ms. Lamberton responded that is provided for by Federal law.

Alderman Gatsas stated not under COBRA. We are not talking about COBRA. If the COBRA rights expire at the end of 18 months what happens then?

Ms. Lamberton replied I think that we would have to discuss it with whoever our health insurance carrier is because that is provided for by Federal law. That sets a limit to the amount of time that the individual can carry the health insurance at the group rate.

Alderman Gatsas asked so what you are saying is that after the 18 month period there is no provision in the health insurance plan now that allows somebody to continue to participate.

Ms. Lamberton answered that is correct.

Alderman Levasseur stated I also wonder, your Honor, as far as other employees in the City and maybe the Human Resource Director could tell me as far as the other employees in the City are they under the same rules.

Ms. Lamberton replied by Federal law any individual who is covered by a health insurance plan at the point where they are no longer on the plan have 18 months to participate in the plan at the group rate.

Alderman Levasseur asked so if we were to make this ruling on this issue with Aldermen we would have to also take into consideration all of the other employees in the City. This would be kind of unfair wouldn't it?

Ms. Lamberton answered I would probably defer to Tom Clark. I don't believe that we can go beyond Federal laws but I will let Tom answer that.

Mayor Baines stated so everybody understands what we are talking about, the people listening, we are proposing that any individual who has served the City as an aldermen for a period of 25 years be allowed to continue participation in the City's health insurance program under the same terms and conditions as others upon leaving office.

Solicitor Clark stated as I understand it the health insurance benefit package that the City now carries does allow retirees to continue at the group rate.

Alderman Lopez stated those people who retire are paying into the insurance plan at the retired status. Some are paying \$300 and some are paying \$350. It depends on what category they are in. Would you like to verify that Ms. Lamberton?

Ms. Lamberton replied yes. As long as they are in the retirement system and receiving an annuity check every month they are allowed to make the premium payment.

Alderman Lopez stated just to clarify this for my sake, the 18 months now, would you go over that again please.

Ms. Lamberton replied any individual who is covered by a health insurance plan, meaning yourself, your spouse, your children, at the point where they are no longer eligible or you separate from employment or the child turns 25 and they are out of school, they are then eligible to have the health insurance at the group rate for a period of up to 18 months.

Alderman Levasseur stated I would hate to provide an incentive for any Aldermen to want to stay here for 25 years.

Alderman Cashin stated obviously this was done for me and I appreciate Alderman O'Neil and Alderman Pariseau's concern but if it is going to cause the Board any embarrassment, then please forget it.

Alderman Gatsas stated we should send it to a Committee to get an answer from the insurance company.

Mayor Baines asked what would be the procedure to send it to Committee now.

Deputy Clerk Johnson answered it can be referred to the Committee on Human Resources if you wish but I would suggest that Alderman Pariseau withdraw his motion and send it there or they can act on the motion on the floor.

Alderman Pariseau stated I would like to see it voted on.

Alderman O'Neil stated I think the intent of Alderman Pariseau and I was we were just trying to honor someone who is very unique in the history of City government. There may never be a Bill Cashin again so we were just trying to come up with a unique way to thank him. What I guess I am most disappointed in is this letter has been out, well at least in the agendas on Friday and some City agencies haven't even taken a look at this. I guess I am a little disappointed in that. They have had it since Friday and can't comment on it Tuesday

night or pick up the phone and call Alderman Pariseau or myself to find out what our intent was here. We thought we were doing right with this and we were not led that there was anything wrong with what we were trying to do.

Alderman Pariseau stated let me start from the beginning. I requested the City Solicitor to work on something like this for those individuals who may be hanging around here for 25 or 30 years. It was before Alderman Cashin made his decision to retire from this Board. This request was back in I want to say April or May. I kept bugging the City Solicitor and finally it comes out now. I think anyone having served the citizens of the City of Manchester for the length of time that Alderman Cashin has deserves a little recognition and believe me it is little for the time and effort that Alderman Cashin has put in on behalf of the City. We can't be worried about the possible negative impact that we may receive from the local newspapers. It is what I feel is right, to recognize an individual who has devoted 32 years of his life helping the citizens of the City of Manchester.

Alderman Gatsas replied I don't think for one second that anybody on this Board doesn't feel for Alderman Cashin's position. I think it is disingenuous for anybody to vote on this motion without first understanding that we can put him on a health plan. To let Alderman Cashin walk out of here with the assumption that he has health insurance once he departs this Board and he doesn't have it because the health carrier says we aren't covering this because it is not in our policy is disingenuous to him. God forbid if something happened to him on January 5. I wouldn't want to be responsible for that. I think that until we get an answer from the insurance company that allows Alderman Cashin to participate in the plan, I think it is disingenuous for any of us on this Board to allow it to happen. We are taking that burden on ourselves because I don't think any carrier is going to say gentlemen we don't care what your vote was we are going to cover the claim. I think it is unfair to Alderman Cashin. It is unfair to whoever else is participating on his plan for us to send that message.

Alderman Wihby stated there is nobody that I respect more than Alderman Cashin on this Board and I don't think anybody has dedicated more to this City than Alderman Cashin as far as the number of years he has served. This shouldn't be about Alderman Cashin. It should be about all of us sitting here. I have 18 years in after this term and I just feel like if I vote for this I am voting for myself again and I just can't do that, your Honor. I can't support that. I don't know if it is legal or not. It should have gone to the Committee first to see if it could be done. If it couldn't have been done then it wouldn't have been here today but I can't support it either way.

Alderman Levasseur stated I can't support this either, your Honor. I think that a seat in government is a privilege, not a right. I didn't know that we were getting insurance or even the money that we got when I took this seat. With due respect to Alderman Cashin who is amazing to have put himself through this for 32 years, I would not be able to vote on something like this for an Alderman. I don't think this is what we are put into government

for. Again, two years ago this Board was chastised for voting for a raise and this looks like the same kind of a thing. No disrespect to Alderman Cashin but I really think that we are allowed to sit in these seats and we are not given any particular right to be able to stay here.

Alderman Thibault stated I hope that Alderman Pariseau will rescind his motion and Alderman O'Neil his second so that we can send this to Committee and make sure that it is within our legal rights to do what can be done. Let's not vote on something that we are not sure of. I would like to see the Alderman rescind his motion and send it to Committee so that we can check all of the particulars on it and make sure that we are on the right track.

Alderman Pariseau rescinded his motion and moved to refer the item to the Human Resources Committee.

Alderman O'Neil stated sitting here and asking if it is within our legal rights...it was drafted by the City Solicitor and I believe this is legal. I will withdraw my second.

Alderman Lopez duly seconded the motion to refer the item to the Human Resources Committee with a report back at the next meeting of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked so will the City Solicitor and Human Resource Director get together to iron this out.

Mayor Baines answered that is correct.

Mayor Baines called for a vote. The motion carried with Aldermen Levasseur and Hirschmann duly recorded in opposition.

Ordinance:

“Amending the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Manchester by extending the B-2 (General Business) zoning district southerly to include the remaining portions of two lots on Loring Street and two lots on Faltin Drive, in an area currently zoned IND (General Industrial).”

On motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to read the Ordinance by title only, and it was so done.

This ordinance having had its final reading by title only, Alderman Sysyn moved on passing same to be ordained. Alderman Pariseau duly seconded the motion. Mayor Baines called for a vote. The motion carried with Aldermen Levasseur and O'Neil abstaining.



### **TABLED ITEMS**

15. Proposal to amend the Purchase and Sale Agreement between the City of Manchester and the Sargent Museum for the purchase of the 88 Lowell Street property.  
(Tabled 10/16/01)

This item remained on the table.

16. Resolution:

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes, or Lease Purchases in the amount of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) for the 2002 CIP 810802 Revaluation Project Phase II & III Project.”

(Tabled 11/20/01)

This item remained on the table.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated on Item 16, I believe the Board asked the Finance Director to look into the possibility of taking that \$300,000 to pay for the revaluation not out of CIP but out of some ordinary funds. Would it be appropriate to ask how that is going at this time?

Mr. Clougherty replied in light of what we will be discussing later with the Welfare situation, there are no funds available but we have looked at it. It would be appropriate but there is nothing there.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Alderman Cashin moved to send a letter to Ron Roy for participating on the MTA Commission as a hold over position until we can find someone. Alderman Pariseau duly seconded the motion.

Mayor Baines stated and we should thank him for his many years of distinguished service to our community. Mayor Baines called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Shea stated we were both privileged to attend the community center opening at St. Anthony's School and I think for members of the Board they should know that the faculty alone at St. Anthony's raised \$300,000 to pay their share for that particular building, which is probably going to cost ultimately \$2 million. I think the community should be grateful to the people at St. Anthony's, the students that attend, the teachers who teach there and the other people who contributed. This is a marvelous contribution to Ward 7 and to the

immediate area. I have been corrected because obviously I am a gym rat from years back and I kept referring to it as a gym but it is not a gym, it is a community hall and they are welcoming the people in the neighborhood who abound that. Father Charles and the other members, Atty. Ovide Lamontagne and Dr. Plantier and Maurice April and Mr. Tateau and others should be publicly commended for the roles that they played. I know that I left many others out but it was a very impressive ceremony and I really feel that the community is blessed by having that.

Mayor Baines stated I appreciate you bringing that up because Alderman Shea and I were both there for the groundbreaking and we were there for the dedication of that facility. If you drive by that neighborhood around St. Anthony's you see what these people have done through true community spirit in terms of a walkway they have created there and also the work they have done with the community center and connecting it to a cafeteria where my son went many years for scouts. They have done a beautiful job. The \$300,000 that Alderman Shea was talking about that was given to the school was actually money set aside by the Administrator of the School, Mr. Bernier, since he was principal there but there are tremendous donations there by individuals including some that Alderman Shea represented. If you want to see a sense of pride and community over in that neighborhood, you should stop by and see what they have done at St. Anthony's. It makes all of us proud. It was a magnificent ceremony, absolutely magnificent.

Alderman Gatsas stated I placed a letter in front of the Board in regards to hoping that we can incorporate some sort of disabled in the roles of the Department of Elderly Services so that at least the disabled have an opportunity to go somewhere and get some of their problems maybe resolved. That may not be the best place but it certainly may be a starting point. Maybe we can refer this to a Committee. I talked with Eric Sawyer, Ron Pappas and Ray Giroux. We don't have a concrete plan but there is a proposal that we were talking about.

Mayor Baines replied I would like to refer this to the Committee on Human Resources for further review and I would like to commend Alderman Gatsas and the others who were involved. I know that my friend, Eric Sawyer, has been advocating for this and I appreciate your tenacity in terms of these issues.

Alderman Shea moved to refer this item to the Committee on Human Resources. Alderman Lopez duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Shea stated I think that that really brings up the subject that I have been harping on for many, many years here and the fact that when we visited the community down in Chelmsford, MA they had an area there where they did service the needs of the community fully and that brings me to the point where we do need a self-standing building. I think a gentleman over here tonight mentioned something about looking into the future and we

really have to do this senior center right. I keep harping on that because we can't give the seniors a half a load. We have to give them a full load and that is why I keep saying do it right because if we don't we are going to be looking back after a few years and saying we didn't take care of this, we didn't take care of that and if we don't give serious thought now in the Year 2001 we will not be prepared to meet the needs of the seniors and the elderly and the disabled in the Years 2002, 2003, 2004, etc. That is my concern.

Mayor Baines called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Mayor Baines stated I do want to put before you a letter that you should have received about extended benefits for employees called to active duty. It is a proposal that came to me from Chief Mark Driscoll and I want to commend our Chief for being at the forefront in advocating for those who have been called to active duty. He has a real passion and conviction about it and I appreciate it very much. After consultation with the Chief and the Director of Human Resources I am supporting this request. I strongly believe that this is the right thing to do for our employees who have been called to serve our country during this difficult time and basically what this proposal would do would be to compensate any individual who has been called to active duty to make up the difference between that person's pay and any reduced pay that that person may be receiving while on active duty. It would be handled within the department's operating budgets and it would be for a 12-month period the way we did the benefits and it would be reviewed at that time. I don't know if Alderman Lopez wants to say anything more about it at this time. I just think it is the right thing to do. There are a number of anxious people, especially at this time of year and especially facing what they are facing now. I believe this is the right thing to do not only for the soldiers but for their families.

Alderman Lopez stated I have talked to the members of the Committee and they feel that we should take action here this evening. Before I do make a motion I would ask the HR Director to reiterate some of the conversations that we had with the Chief of Police as far as what it is going to cost us and how it is going to be handled.

Ms. Lamberton stated at this time we have five employees who have been involuntarily activated. As far as we know, only one employee has actually suffered a reduction in their income as a consequence for being involuntarily activated. The cost for the remainder of the fiscal year would be \$3,500.

Alderman Lopez moved to authorize payment on the effective date of active duty for the individual in the Police Department so that his pay will be given to him to receive the salary that he normally receives and that it be controlled by the HR Director.

Mayor Baines replied and this would be for any other individuals.

Alderman Lopez responded yes this would be for any other individuals and I must point out that we have already done the insurance previously at a Board meeting and this motion would be to keep the pay up for this particular individual.

Mayor Baines asked but this motion would be inclusive of any others who find themselves in that situation.

Alderman Lopez answered that is correct and it will be controlled by the HR Director.

Alderman Cashin duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Gatsas asked that is not a lump sum payment but is based on a weekly rate right.

Mayor Baines answered that is correct.

Mayor Baines called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Mayor Baines stated I want to thank you, Chief, for staying honest even during the difficult discussions that we had over the past week on some other issues and I would like you to convey this to that family as soon as possible. I have another matter to bring to your attention of a very serious note. As you know, we were alerted by the Commissioner of Welfare some time ago about some concerns about the Welfare Department budget. Being distributed to you now is a memorandum to the members of the Board that I would like to share with the public at this time and I would like to read it. At the last Board meeting we were alerted by the Finance Officer of the need for remedial action regarding the fiscal year 2002 Welfare Department operating budget in order to keep the overall City budget in balance. As promised, attached are recommendations and actions to address this fiscal situation. Attachment A is a memorandum that was presented and discussed with department heads at a meeting this morning. The memorandum outlines a series of cost containment management initiatives within the Welfare Department as well as recommended transfers from departmental line items to contingency accounts in anticipation of a Welfare appropriation shortage of approximately \$1 million. Also attached is a resolution transferring funds from departmental line items to the contingency account. I respectfully request that the Board suspend its rules this evening to adopt this resolution and the recommended transfers. Needless to say, I regret having to recommend such actions, however, I believe that we must take a prudent course of action in light of the economic forecast. I want to publicly thank all of the City department heads and the staff for their cooperation in this matter. I have every confidence that the transfers will be accommodated with a minimum of service disruption. I also want to call your attention to a memorandum to department heads and I want you to know that we have tried to address this issue on several

fronts. First of all, after consultation with the City Solicitor I have requested that the City Clerk and the Deputy City Clerk, both of whom have prior experience as Welfare Directors, to examine the situation and recommend cost containment measures. This is in addition to the Finance Department's internal audit activity initiated at the last Committee on Accounts, Enrollment & Revenue Administration meeting. Second, the Planning Director has initiated an effort to reach out to the community's extensive support network to help coordinate resources that will also help curtail cost overruns in the Welfare budget. I met with Commissioner-Elect Paul Martineau this morning and outlined some steps that we felt were prudent in terms of containing the situation that exists and he enthusiastically has supported our recommendation. Third, the procedure for filling vacant positions has been changed. Attached is a procedure developed by the Human Resources Department at my request that will be followed to fill any vacant positions effective immediately. We have put into effect a hiring freeze across the City but we also have initiated a procedure where we can review each case by bringing myself, the Human Resource Director and the Finance Officer to review every situation on a case-by-case basis. You will note in the memorandum that was distributed that there are certain positions that have been excluded, including 100% reimbursed position, chargeback positions and seasonal positions. We are also not going to do anything, I can assure the public, to disrupt City services, including Police and Fire and other vital services in the community. What we have done is identified a source of money between each department in the City. We have asked the department heads to identify how they are going to manage their own departments. I believe that is the prudent thing to do and each department has been allowed to go into their budgets and look at various items that they feel they can reign back in terms of expenses, such as the salary accounts and other operating line items and every department has cooperated in a very positive manner. At tonight's meeting there will be a resolution that we are going to ask you to pass and at this time I would like to ask Mr. Clougherty to review the situation from his perspective. You need to know that Mr. Clougherty and I meet just about on a daily basis and sometimes more often to discuss City finances and we have worked very, very hard, all of us, to bring this matter to your attention. It is the responsible thing to do and we are going to take every course of action to insure that we end the fiscal year on a positive note relating to what has been appropriated and how we have been able to curtail expenses to meet this very significant challenge with welfare costs.

Mr. Clougherty stated I think you have covered most of it. We were asked to do a projection of expenses for the department. If the continuing pattern were to sustain itself through the end of the fiscal year, the expenditures over the appropriation for Welfare would be in the area of \$1 million to \$1.5 million. We do feel that there are some procedural things that can be done to reduce that amount and we will make every effort to get that amount under \$1 million but at this time in an effort to be prudent we are recommending that the \$1 million target be the subject of some action. The recommendation that the dollars be transferred from the department's budgets to contingency rather than to the Welfare budget so that in the event that we see this pattern subside, the balances left in contingency could be used to

provide some relieve to the departments. At this time, given the uncertainty of the situation, we feel that we need to alert the Board that it could be as much as \$1 million.

Alderman Shea stated I am for this but what is the cause for this. Could you tell us why we have such a problem?

Mr. Clougherty replied I am not really sure, Alderman and that is why I went to the Committee on Accounts. We talked about putting in our internal auditor to try and get us information. Obviously there is an economic slow down out there and that may have some impact on the number of cases and have some effect. It may also be that we are using some outdated procedures and that there are some administrative areas that we need to tighten up and that is what we are looking at.

Alderman Shea stated you know that there is a potential deficit but at this time you are not sure what the causes are. Is that what you are saying?

Mayor Baines replied we can clarify that a little bit more. Carol did give me a briefing today because she spent some time over there as has Leo. We do not have anybody there on a day-to-day basis right now managing what is happening in that office and that is creating some stresses for us in terms of getting a handle on that situation. That is why I have had Carol and Leo go over there and obviously the internal auditor has been over there as well.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated I have spent some time there both yesterday and today. I have had discussions with the caseworkers. There are six caseworkers in the office at this time. They are experiencing definite difficulties from lack of management or administration on a daily basis at this time. We have examined some of the protocols and the policies and procedures and the guidelines that they are following. Some of it I think are philosophical differences that will change with the next administration coming in. Some if it will be perhaps cured by some changes in procedures internally that we can suggest to the new Commissioner coming in. I have had some discussion as well with the Commissioner that will be coming in and he has indicated that he has an interest in making some changes as well. There is a person on leave that was in a management position, the Business Service Officer, and as I understand it that person will be returning shortly. There is a Deputy position that is vacant. It has really caused some stress on that department. I think that if they initiate some other things we can curtail some of those costs and you will see the spiraling or the exposure to the City go down in time. There is definitely some indicators that the City auditor has given us of the employment rates and we have done some parallels with that. There are impacts because of the economy in and of itself, but there are some obvious other things that can be done perhaps to curtail the exposure to the City. I guess it is very early at this point and beyond that I really wouldn't want to give you any specific recommendations. I think that Leo and I had intended to work with Finance and submit

something to the Mayor because that was our assignment and I presume that he will report back to the Board.

Alderman Shea stated so you have a headless horse over there in other words. I mean that is what you have indicated. Is that correct? The one who is in charge is not there.

Mayor Baines replied we do not have, on a day-to-day basis, any of the three top management people in place over there and it has created...without going into details and opening up another situation it has created a very difficult situation for us because of the situation to manage the situation like we would do in any other department in the City. Notwithstanding that, we have taken prudent action. Mr. Clougherty under his role and his auditing capacity has sent the internal auditor over there. We met with the Commissioner-Elect. We are renewing our search for a number two person in the department and we have sent two experienced former Welfare Commissioners over there to help us manage the situation going forward and that is where we are at right now.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated I would just like to also state to the Board for the record that it has an exceptional staff in the Welfare Department. One thing that has been done very well over there is the staff that have been hired are competent staff. They care about both the City's viewpoint but also the client's viewpoint. They care and they are doing as good a job I think as any of them can at this point in time.

Alderman Gatsas stated I certainly respect Kevin's position as the City's Finance Officer. I think that somebody would have provided us with some data on how they arrived at the estimation of \$1 million to \$1.5 million deficit. I guess my next question, Kevin, is how much money is in the rainy day fund.

Mayor Baines replied we came to the Board at the last meeting and said we were looking at a situation where that department had expended approximately 76% of their budget and with due respect to the Commissioner she did come before the Board and alert us that because of what is happening with the economy and the requests they were expecting some problems in that department.

Mr. Clougherty stated that is accurate.

Mayor Baines asked, Kevin, how much money is in the rainy day fund.

Mr. Clougherty answered approximately \$9 million.

Mayor Baines asked is it raining.

Alderman Gatsas answered it is pouring to the tune of \$1.5 million. Why wouldn't we be using that money?

Mr. Clougherty stated the problem that you have with respect to Welfare is an appropriation issue. The rainy day fund is a year-end accounting procedure for fund balance. What you have is a lack of appropriation. You cannot access the rainy day fund for an expenditure without going through a full blown budget procedure and it is my understanding that we are not allowed to do that under our Charter. You are mixing apples and oranges. The rainy day fund is fund balance. The issue we have here is appropriation.

Alderman Gatsas stated let me just make the question a little simpler, Kevin. If on a yearly basis the year ends and we have money remaining and we put it in this so-called rainy day fund, if we can't ever get to that rainy day fund during the course of a year then why do we do it?

Mr. Clougherty replied you do the fund balance arrangement with the rainy day fund to deal with the revenue side. In the event that as a result of a down turn in the economy or something of that nature there is a result and effect that the revenues for the year do not produce, that is the occasion where the credit rating agencies, investors and others would agree that it is appropriate to use the rainy day fund. That is on the revenue side of the balance sheet. We are talking about a problem where the appropriation amount that was given to the department, the appropriation amount that was given to the department, the authorization to expend, will go over. By State law we are required to meet certain requirements but there is also a Charter requirement that you will not exceed your appropriation. We have got to work on the appropriation side to deal with that and that is what the recommendations do.

Alderman Gatsas responded let's assume that for some forsaken reason Frank Thomas' snow budget is \$500,000 and we get 25 feet of snow during the snow season and he exceeds his budget by \$3 million, where do we find his money.

Mayor Baines stated the answer would be the same. We would have to go back to the budget and try to cut money out of existing budgets to make up for that.

Alderman Gatsas asked but if we don't know that until March and Frank's situation with only three months left in our fiscal year and there is absolutely no way that you can find \$2 million what would we do.

Mr. Clougherty answered the way that the Highway Department's budget is structured is to make allowances for those occasions. The shock absorber, if you would, in Frank's budget is his resurfacing money. If he has to expend more money for plowing during the Winter months then there will not be a balance in his budget for resurfacing at the end of the year.



Alderman Gatsas replied, Kevin, I want a straight answer.

Mr. Clougherty responded that is a straight answer.

Alderman Gatsas replied no that is not a straight answer because if he expends his \$500,000 in his resurfacing account that still leaves us a deficit of \$2.5 million. How does he get that money?

Mr. Clougherty responded he would not spend his balance in his resurfacing because it would not be available.

Alderman Gatsas asked what if he used it for plowing. If we had three years of shortfall and he came back to the Board and he went into that account and there was nothing left, where would we get the \$2.5 million?

Mr. Clougherty answered if there were additional amounts we would have to go to other departments.

Alderman Gatsas asked what if there wasn't enough in the additional departments by \$1 million. Where would we get the money?

Mayor Baines answered we would probably have to lay-off people.

Mr. Clougherty stated right. You would have to take corrective action. You cannot over expend your appropriation per the Charter.

Alderman Gatsas asked so we as a Board don't have an opportunity to ever re-open the budget during the course of the year by Charter. Is that what you said?

Mr. Clougherty answered that is my understanding.

Alderman Gatsas asked is that what the City Solicitor's understanding is.

Solicitor Clark answered that is my understanding.

Alderman Gatsas asked can you show me in the Charter where it says that please.

Solicitor Clark answered the Charter allows you to have an annual appropriation or a bi-annual appropriation if you adopt that procedure. It allows you to have a supplemental appropriation only to the extent that you have excess revenues during the year period.

Alderman Gatsas asked can you give me the page number so I can read it. Not that I question your legal intent, but I want to make sure that it is not read in any other way.

Solicitor Clark answered it is Article 6 of the Charter that deals with budgets.

Alderman Wihby stated that is why the Charter should be changed again. Exactly what Alderman Gatsas is talking about is what could have happened with the rainy day fund and the School budget because they had a shortage of revenues. It wasn't the expense side but the revenue side so they could have not changed their number and if we had a shortage we would have used the rainy day fund. Your Honor, I want to commend you for taking the appropriate step here. It is something that we have to take and something that is necessary. I think we can move forward with what you have done. Hopefully the numbers don't come out as bad as you think and we can release some of that money as we go along, but I think it is a step that this Board has to take in order to be prudent to meet the budget needs. I think you have done a good job in meeting with the departments and coming up with these numbers.

Alderman Wihby moved to approve the Resolution. Alderman Thibault duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Hirschmann stated I have three points on this issue. The first one deals basically with the mandates from the State. This Board needs protection and I would hope that the Senators that sit on this Board and the State Representatives that sit on this Board do something up in Concord because right now it is a flood gate that is wide open. We are mandated by the State of New Hampshire to take care of any and all welfare expenditures and they are exorbitant. Some of the things that the auditor is going to uncover are hotel rooms. We are paying \$200 or \$300 a night for some hotel rooms to put people in because there aren't places to put people. That is number one. These mandates from the State have to be looked at and I hope that you people on the State level can help.

Mayor Baines asked while we are on that point could I ask Mr. Bernier because we have talked about that. Leo, as you know has been around a long time and we have already talked about looking at the legislature and looking at a different approach to this and I will let Mr. Bernier explain what we talked about.

Clerk Bernier stated in 1982 the local communities agreed to take care of all of the indigent and then the county would take care of the nursing home costs as well as a portion of young adults that had to be placed in special schools. I think and the Mayor and I were talking about that and as a matter of fact he plans on talking to the three Senators and the State Representatives to change that legislation. It worked in 1982. It is not working now. I think the problems that we have here are more regional and I think it is time that the county and other communities participate. If these individuals don't have an opportunity outside of

Manchester than the communities need to participate outside of Manchester to assist these people. It is a piece of legislation that needs to be addressed in January and I would recommend that we go back to the old formula that we used to use to deliver welfare in 1982.

Mayor Baines stated which would be on a county basis, correct.

Clerk Bernier replied that is correct.

Mayor Baines stated so we are going to be looking at that and we are also trying to gather some information from the audit in terms of a conversation that Chairman Cashin brought up the other day identifying exactly what is happening, where the people are residing, where they have come from, how long they have been in Manchester, etc. to go forward with some further discussion.

Alderman Hirschmann stated that is very good supporting evidence. It is just a point that welfare reform really has to start at the State level and I think that next fall there is a lot of work and a lot of new bills or changes/amendments to these Senate House bills that can happen. The other two points I wanted to bring up were Commissioner Lafond was in our presence in September and she did bring to light these shortfalls and any pending shortfalls and she was ready to respond to questions from the Board but we took the matter under advisement and we didn't question her further. The truth...when the auditor goes in there he is going to find a lot of charges are hotel rooms to put people into. That brings me to my third point for welfare, which is when you do sit down with the college, I see Notre Dame College as an opportunity for us further if there are dorm rooms that become available in the next two years, your Honor...don't smile. The City needs space. People need to live somewhere without paying \$200 to \$300 a night per room and if there is a dormitory for a person to stay in that the City can get their hands on, I advocate for that for these people and I would hope, your Honor, that you consider that in your deliberations.

Alderman Levasseur stated I would support this resolution that you have submitted and I wholeheartedly support your effort to again have to freeze government like we did two years ago to straighten out some of the situations that arise. I really do caution the Board about taking money away from the Police Department. I see that there is money being taken out of their overtime account and we still don't know what is going to happen in the next six months with concerts and such being downtown. I would support this but I would rather that you didn't take that money out of the Police Department.

Mayor Baines replied we don't like taking it out of any of the departments but what we have said to the department heads is if they get into a situation...this money is going to be set-up in a contingency so it is not just going to all be turned over to the Welfare Department and

departments if there were situations and after we get a better handle on the Welfare situation, would be able to come in and request additional monies.

Alderman Levasseur stated as you probably already know, we have been put on high alert again for terrorist activities and I would like to...I think we should leave the Police Department alone with the budget that we had given them.

Mayor Baines replied again security matters transcend more than just the Police Department. We will never do anything to jeopardize public safety.

Alderman Levasseur stated but you are taking the money out of their budget.

Mayor Baines replied the Chief has indicated that that can be handled and we will respond to any needs that the Chief or any other departments have.

Alderman O'Neil stated in order to vote for this tonight I would like to ask five departments very quickly...the large ones affected here, what this does. Chief Kane could you come up first? Are we going to go through closing fire stations, closing fire stations for a day and the games that were played here years ago? If they have agreed to these numbers, they must have a plan.

Chief Kane replied what we are looking at right now is that it is early in the year and we are hoping to get some savings in regards to some of our salary line items. We don't have any specifics. I can tell you what won't happen though and that is we are not going to be closing any fire stations down and we are not going to be suspending any services.

Alderman O'Neil asked a fire station in the City is not going to be closed for a day.

Chief Kane answered as a result of this, no.

Alderman O'Neil asked we are not going to see the overtime go up to cover because we didn't fill...we go through this in the budget season every year. If we don't fill regular salaries the overtime budget goes up. That will not happen?

Chief Kane answered we actually talked about that and that is not something that we are looking at doing. We understand that there is a freeze and if that occurs we would be going to the Mayor and asking to fill those positions. Obviously we don't want to be paying time and a half. It costs us additional money.

Alderman O'Neil asked so there will not be any reduction in Fire service in the City of Manchester at any period of time.

Chief Kane answered that is correct.

Mayor Baines stated just to answer your question that is something that we have talked a lot about. We are not going to not fill a position that is going to cost us more.

Alderman O'Neil called Chief Driscoll to the microphone. You are being asked to contribute to this both in regular salaries and overtime. What will that do to police service in the City of Manchester?

Mayor Baines replied as the Board well knows the Police Department's budget is 94% salary, 5% capital, and 1% expenses. As a result of that, those dollars will have to come out of the salary line. We have seven months to go. I guess I would echo what Chief Kane said. We will reduce salary and overtime to the extent that we will attempt to save that money. There are a lot of unanswered questions with seven months to go, but we will do the very best we can and come back to the Board if there are problems towards the end of the year.

Alderman O'Neil asked will we see reduction in Police service in the City of Manchester.

Chief Driscoll answered certainly if we reduce our salary line items there will be less police officers and less overtime and less training. Certainly that is the case. Any time I reduce the budget to that extent, those dollars aren't going to be spent on salaries.

Alderman O'Neil stated so we will see with this recommendation a reduction of police services at some period of time in the City of Manchester.

Chief Driscoll replied of course but we will work over the seven months to make that as invisible as possible.

Alderman Hirschmann stated that is really not acceptable at all. I fought in the budget process to make sure that the Police Chief had the personnel and the manpower to police our City in the right manner. We had concerns on the West Side and in other parts of the City and we want to make sure that the money that was given to the Police Department keeps police officers on the street. Now when the School District had a deficit, all we did at the end of the fiscal year is we applied our fund balance to their deficit. It seems to me that if there is a deficit in the Welfare Department again our fund balance can be used to cover the Welfare Department rather than this resolution. I am not willing to cut police services at all and I am glad that Alderman O'Neil brought this to light.

Mr. Clougherty stated the situation with the School District is a separate resolution and they carry their deficit. It wasn't something that we took care of with our fund balance. Again, we are dealing with the section of the Charter that deals with appropriations and not the

section that deals with a revenue situation so we have to live within the expenditure authorizations that were adopted by the Board at the appropriation level.

Alderman Hirschmann stated the School District overspent their appropriation as well. We are talking about exactly the same thing, Kevin.

Mr. Clougherty replied first of all I am not condoning the School District. That is not what we are trying to do here. The authorization to spend the bottom line appropriation is what we are talking about and we have to rely on the Charter and stay within our appropriation and that is what is being recommended here. To take action and try and assure that we can stay within the bottom line appropriation of the budget.

Mayor Baines stated I also want to call to mind that when I worked with the department heads on this, everybody was very cooperative about working through this. Someone said to me at one time a couple of years ago they had to cut \$6 million out with four months left in the fiscal year. We have tried to do this so that it is painless. When we started out all of these numbers that you see were doubled and we worked it down to where we feel it is manageable. I believe we can manage through this and not jeopardize any public safety here with this.

Alderman Hirschmann replied we are going to have fewer men on the street.

Mayor Baines responded this is \$68,000 and we are seven months away and we are going to be re-evaluation this situation as we go along and if there were a situation where the Chief came to us and said hey I have a particular problem here, we have the ability to release that money. That is nothing that is going to come out now and have an impact. Are there any more questions for the Chief?

Alderman Shea stated I think the Board should realize and you do, Chief, more than we do, that the need for justifiable police protection in every ward in this City isn't up to snuff. You will go and you will say to the Mayor I need expenditures to meet the needs of my department. I am sure you will do that and obviously that is what we are saying you should do and of course you have the edict to do that, correct?

Chief Driscoll replied absolutely. In the five years that I have been Chief I don't think this Board has ever let me down.

Alderman Levasseur stated I don't want any of the money savings being done in Ward 3. I don't want any police officers being taken out of Ward 3. I don't want any fewer police officers downtown. We already had windows broken Friday downtown and I don't think this is the right thing to do. We are still in the discovery process of how the civic center is affecting this downtown and I don't want to see the Chief's hands tied with decision on who

he can put in. We still haven't had a concert with a young crowd yet. We still don't know if the Chief is going to have extra people on for concerts that are coming in. I don't want to tie his hands and that is what this is about. Right now there is a big message that has to be sent to the people who are coming into Manchester that downtown is a very safe place to be and you think \$68,000 is not a lot of money but that has a lot to do with a lot of events that are coming in in the next seven months. I will echo Alderman Hirschmann's and Alderman O'Neil's stand on this. I cannot vote for this. I would rather see an amendment where we don't take any appropriation away from the Police Department or the Fire Department.

Alderman Lopez stated I don't think the Chief is going to let the City down but I have a question for Kevin.

Alderman Levasseur stated a year ago when his budget had to be cut he had to take police officers off the bikes downtown and it affected downtown dramatically and it wasn't a big appropriation. It was something that is very important. People want to see police officers downtown. I know I do.

Alderman Lopez stated I have a question for the Finance Officer. As you are well aware, we gave \$300,000 to the Police Department for a firing range. Could the \$68,000 be taken out of that?

Mr. Clougherty replied that wouldn't apply because those are bonds that were issued in prior years. This is a fiscal year 2002 problem so it has to come out of the appropriation in the operating budget for that period. We could not apply those dollars. We looked at that.

Alderman Wihby asked, Chief, don't you have five openings right now.

Chief Driscoll answered we have four openings.

Alderman Wihby asked why aren't they filled. If we need all of this money and all of this staff, why aren't you filling the positions?

Chief Driscoll answered they will be filled. We actually made commitments to those four individuals and expect to hire them within a very short time.

Mayor Baines asked but they have been vacant for a period of time, correct.

Chief Driscoll answered yes they have.

Mayor Baines asked how long.

Chief Driscoll answered I would have to research that. Some have been perhaps 60 days.

Mayor Baines replied right and I authorized you to fill all of the positions that offers had been made on right.

Chief Driscoll responded that is correct and we expect to do that.

Alderman Wihby stated where I am coming from is we have had five or four positions not filled for two months and there is extra money there because you didn't fill those positions that would end up as a balance in your budget. Is that true?

Chief Driscoll replied in some cases that is true but that is also the money that we use to hire overtime to fill those positions when we don't have those people on board.

Alderman Wihby asked so do you think that if you came to the Mayor with a problem that he is going to tell you no or do you feel you can manage this with this cut and you are not going to have a problem or do you feel you are going to have a problem with it?

Chief Driscoll answered what I said is I will do my very best over the next seven months to make this as invisible as possible but the question that I was asked is the reduction in that amount of money from the budget going to impact police services to the community and it would be very difficult for me to sit here and honestly say no.

Alderman Wihby asked do you feel that if you had something that you wanted and you came to the...all of this money is going in a pot and the pot can be spent not only just for Welfare but for anything that you needed or Fire needed or anybody else needed. We are putting it aside and dedicating it to solve a problem. The problem might not be as big as we think and if you wanted to get something and you came for it and you thought it was something for public safety do you think the Mayor would deny you?

Chief Driscoll answered no. In fact I think I have already answered that I don't think the Board has ever let me down.

Alderman Wihby asked so do you have a problem with us taking the \$68,000 knowing that the money is set aside and if you need something you can come forward and ask.

Chief Driscoll asked do I have a problem with it. Obviously I would prefer that the Board didn't but I was told that the Board was going to take it or that we should expect it to be taken and I was asked to identify where it would come from and that is what I have done.

Mayor Baines stated I wish we weren't facing this situation. All of us do but we have taken a prudent course of action. This money I want to explain is going into a contingency. It is not going over to the Welfare Department. We are going to manage that money. We have a



very cooperative...you have excellent department heads in this City that have shown a spirit of cooperation in doing this that I think perhaps is unprecedented. We are going to work with them through the problem and try to put in some management strategies. They are going to minimize it. I don't think we are dealing with a significant problem. If we can't manage \$500,000 out of a total appropriation of over \$103 million I don't think we are being good managers. I think we have done a pretty good job working with everybody to make this as painless as possible and I urge the Board to support it because it is the right thing to do at this time.

Alderman O'Neil stated I have been here when we have gone through this before and the Aldermen don't know what the results of these actions are and we are getting the phone calls. That is why I am asking these questions tonight. I applaud you for your effort in trying to correct this. I just want to understand if we are being asked to vote for this tonight, what is the outcome of what we vote for. I thank the Chief for his time and if there are no other questions for him I would like to ask Frank to come up.

Alderman Gatsas stated if I can Alderman O'Neil, I certainly appreciate where you are coming from but I guess the question I have is for Finance. If we look at the reserves and worker's compensation in health insurance, are those available?

Mr. Clougherty replied yes we did.

Alderman Gatsas asked are they available.

Mr. Clougherty answered the fund balances that are available are again calculated at the end of the year.

Alderman Gatsas answered no those were appropriations that we made during the budget this year. \$250,000 for worker's compensation and \$250,000 for health insurance. Those were appropriations that we made during the year in those funds. Have those been looked at because they are appropriations of this budget year?

Mr. Clougherty replied with all due respect we have looked at all available sources of funds.

Alderman Gatsas asked are they available to the City because we haven't used them.

Mr. Clougherty answered they are not encumbered.

Alderman Gatsas stated so we can use those instead of cutting Police and Fire.

Mr. Clougherty replied in my opinion no.

Alderman Gatsas responded you said to me that we can't look at fund balances because they aren't appropriations of this last budget. Is that correct?

Mr. Clougherty replied let me answer your question. You cannot use fund balances. It is a year end calculation. You can look at appropriations. We have looked at the appropriations for health insurance and all of these items with the Human Resources Director. To the extent that some of those dollars can be used, we have earmarked them as part of this proposal.

Mayor Baines asked explain what was earmarked, Kevin, so that everybody understands that.

Alderman Gatsas stated \$30,000 and I am saying to you that in the appropriation of this budget period we appropriated \$250,000 for worker's compensation reserve and \$250,000 for health insurance reserve. That was in this appropriation. Have we touched those monies during the course of the last five months? I will ask the Human Resources Director that question. Have we gone into those balances?

Ms. Lamberton replied I can't answer you.

Mr. Clougherty stated I am telling you that under the Charter it says with verification of balances available. In my opinion, you are going to need those dollars and they are not available for this. That is why if you take a look at the original submission to the departments, we took the original budget and we took out salaries and benefits and other deductions because we understand that those are the items that are necessary to the departments and we don't feel that those are available. We feel that they are encumbered.

Alderman Gatsas asked of the \$500,000 that we appropriated two years ago in those same two accounts, did we use any of that money last year.

Mr. Clougherty answered I don't believe we did.

Alderman Gatsas asked so what you are saying is that those were appropriations we made two years ago and we didn't use them and the \$250,000 that we used in each one of those accounts this year you believe we are going to use.

Mr. Clougherty answered you are trying to build your fund balance to the actuarial numbers that you should be at. You shouldn't be stripping out all of your fund balances and leaving yourself bare in a situation like this because you are exposed to a credit rating downgrade and other issues.

Alderman Gatsas stated I certainly can appreciate where you are coming from but I believe that the reserve accounts were talked about actuarially being sound when I became an

Alderman here two years ago in the health insurance side so let's not talk about credit ratings because nobody ever brought that up before.

Mr. Clougherty replied actually they weren't and just because it wasn't brought up doesn't mean that it is not important, Alderman.

Alderman Gatsas responded then let's not bring it up now that we cannot use those funds instead of worrying about safety and police and fire.

Mayor Baines stated I think the way to deal with this is to adopt this resolution. If, over the course of the next month or weeks or whatever there are other solutions here, we can take those actions but what we have done now is taken the prudent course of action and taken \$1 million and put it in contingency. If we are able to identify some other sources going forward, we have seven months to do it. Right now, I have to act and you have to act to protect the City budget. That is what we have asked you to do.

Alderman Levasseur asked why does it have to be \$1 million. Why can't it be \$750,000?

Mayor Baines answered because we have identified at least \$1 million. Carol, do you want to talk a little bit about that?

Alderman Levasseur asked can I just make a clarification before we go forward. If you put in \$750,000 and then you determine that you need more at a later date then you would be all set. You can do it both ways. In the meantime you don't have to have these guys with their hands tied.

Mayor Baines stated we know that the Welfare Department has expended 76% of its budget as we speak. We have identified the approximate...the worst case scenario is \$1.5 million. We have been conservative. We think it could be \$1.2 million.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated just to give an example, the rental line item for Welfare is probably its highest expenditure. Last year throughout October 31 and the fiscal cycle it had spent \$177,000. As of October 31 of this year, it expended \$521,000. You are up basically 193% and rising almost on a daily basis over there. They are expending to the tune of \$14,000 a week at one hotel alone. I am seeing that increase and we are seeing the numbers rise. Unless there is some remedial action taken...your exposure could go a lot higher than \$1 million. I think if you take remedial action you can meet that \$1 million figure or maybe bring it in a little but you are going to have some overage there without a doubt. At the rate it is rising now, it is not slowing down but going up every month.

Alderman Thibault stated my question would be maybe to you, your Honor. Why couldn't we let the Chief keep the \$68,000 right now with the approval of the Board asking him to do

his best to save as much as he can as we go along so the money is still there and if he needs it he could use it?

Mayor Baines replied I think you should say the same thing to every single department in the City. We don't think that is the prudent course of action to take at this time. I am required under the Charter to make recommendations. I have done it and you can vote on it. If you have other solutions, we can certainly entertain them.

Alderman Thibault asked are you comfortable with that Chief the way it is. With you giving that \$68,000. You are comfortable with that knowing that if you need something we will give it to you?

Chief Driscoll answered if this Board makes that commitment I am comfortable with it.

Alderman O'Neil asked can I get Frank and Tom Lolicata and Ron Ludwig up here. Frank, they are indicating here \$179,000 in resurfacing and I guess in the big picture it is the right way to go. Will we see any reduction because of this move in services for snow removal this winter, garbage pick-up on an ongoing basis, any of the regular services that your department provides?

Mr. Thomas answered no. That is why I recommended the cut in resurfacing. We are out of our construction season and going into the winter season. I am trying to protect my assets in that area. Hopefully with a mild winter I will be able to re-establish some of the cuts.

Alderman O'Neil asked so you are comfortable with this although there is a possibility that if we have a severe winter you could be in a little bit of trouble.

Mr. Thomas answered that is correct. We could be back here asking for more money.

Alderman O'Neil asked Tom Lolicata to come to the microphone. Tommy, they have identified \$86,000 in contracts. Can you just quickly explain what that is?

Mr. Lolicata answered that is part of the SMG deal where we have to pay off the bills and if they don't meet their quota we can get some savings out of there at the end of the year. We were allocated so much money to pay off that formula. Out of the contract work, I think we can get most of it out of there. Now six or seven months down the road I have a vacant position and other line items if I have to meet that \$86,000.

Alderman O'Neil asked so you are comfortable and this isn't going to get us into any trouble down the road.

Mr. Lolicata answered I will wait until April or May. Unlike Frank I have snow removal and that will help a lot. I have a vacancy to fool with and other line items so I am comfortable.

Alderman O'Neil stated I don't know if anyone from Parks is here.

Mayor Baines answered Ron Ludwig is here.

Alderman Levasseur asked, Mr. Lolicata, are you worried about your revenue projections for parking. Is that number still going to come in pretty solid?

Mr. Lolicata answered I am a little worried about the overall revenues right now.

Alderman Levasseur stated if you are cutting him out of this money now...is that a different issue.

Mayor Baines replied it is a different issue.

Alderman Levasseur asked is that because it is general fund and not his department in particular. Is that the difference that the revenues are attributed to?

Mayor Baines answered we are looking at a concern about a shortfall perhaps in revenues that could be anywhere up to \$700,000.

Mr. Lolicata stated we have four or five months to go. We have more marketing to do so we have to wait until...near the end of the year I think I can bring those up pretty well. We have to wait as far as revenues are concerned but we have a little bit of worry.

Alderman Levasseur asked are you looking at \$700,000.

Mr. Lolicata answered that is close to it.

Alderman Levasseur stated so that is another \$700,000 that we are going to have to make up.

Mr. Lolicata replied that could change.

Alderman Levasseur stated well he is giving out \$3 off coupons.

Mr. Lolicata replied there will be a lot of marketing going on from here on in which might help us.

Alderman Levasseur asked did you include marketing in your budget. The marketing that you are going to do, did you include it somewhere in a budget? I don't remember you having extra money for marketing.

Mr. Lolicata answered I will have to hit some line item like anything else.

Alderman Levasseur asked so you are going to have to play some more games with line items.

Mr. Lolicata answered that is the name of the game. You have to do some things at the end of the year to help some other things. In this case I will probably have to hit another line item.

Alderman Levasseur asked the \$1 surcharge on the tickets is that something that you are looking at.

Mayor Baines asked am I personally looking at it.

Alderman Levasseur replied yes. I don't want to see it go through but I am sure there is going to be a demand for revenue going on here and I hope that is not one of the ways you go raise it.

Mayor Baines responded that is a separate issue that we can discuss later. Does anyone have any more questions for Mr. Lolicata?

Alderman Shea asked is the difficulty attributable to the civic center. Is that where you are running into the problem with the revenues?

Mr. Lolicata answered right now for the parking issues but in the meantime I have also added meters. I am thinking that down the road I will bring that figure down a little bit. I have a little concern right now.

Alderman Shea asked can you explain what is happening so the people in the community will know.

Mr. Lolicata answered right now the private parking is taking a big turn. As you can see they all came out and they are all using private parking. We are trying to get more people into the garages. I think a little PR will go a long way. They don't realize that our rates were cheaper at the beginning of all of this and we are trying to get them into these other parking lots.

Alderman Shea asked the people who are entrepreneurs and taking advantage of this, similar to the restaurant owners and others now, these people are they people that own property in a very close proximity to the civic center so that they can get people to park there or are they people who are flagging them before them even come into the proximity of the civic center.

Mr. Lolicata answered we have everybody around the civic center mostly and we even have some down in the Millyard who are making a good profit because of their location. We are trying to remedy some of that.

Alderman Wihby stated, Tom, I think you hit on it. Marketing is I think where we are losing it. I took a ride during one of the games that I didn't go to and there were people standing out there saying \$10 and our lot was down at the end and it was \$5 and I wouldn't have known unless I knew it was there. Those guys have to be somewhere with a sign lit telling people to go a little further and pay \$5.

Mr. Lolicata replied if I can make a little scenario on that, first of all even after the editorial came out we were already cheaper than these people. We were charging \$5. People coming on Granite Street would go down Commercial and they would hit this first driveway. I am not saying anything but some of our signs disappeared and we put some back out on City property. Now they were out on City property bringing the people right into the driveway.

Alderman Wihby responded right but we should be doing that to.

Mr. Lolicata replied I had the Police look into that. The private people can stay on their part and we are staying on ours. We also brought up more signs and put them up to bring people down to the Rubenstein Lot.

Alderman Wihby responded that is what I am saying. We should have our \$5 sign when you take a right there. It should say come a little further, it is \$5.

Mr. Lolicata replied we put in new signs two days ago. They are already up.

Mayor Baines stated the other thing that I would caution people about is people are just discovering the City and discovering the opportunities. We are still going through a period where people are going to find these parking lots and Tom and his staff have been doing an excellent job.

Mr. Lolicata replied we are going to put new signs coming off of the highway and that is all we can do now for marketing.

Alderman O'Neil stated I would like to finish with Mr. Ludwig.

Mayor Baines stated while he is on his way up here just to give you some indication I was recently with a group of Mayors from all over the country and almost every single Mayor is doing the same exact thing in terms of cutting back their present budget.

Alderman O'Neil asked, Ron, you must have some idea of how you are going to make up this \$33,000 in salaries.

Mr. Ludwig answered we do. I had one management position that is currently open. The reason for that is I held it open for a few months. It is an important position within the department. We have advertised it on a couple of different occasions and I haven't gotten what I consider to be a good candidate and that is the only reason it is still open. I have a few dollars there. There are a couple of positions in the lower level, one in the Parks Division and one in the Cemetery Division that I have been holding off on. A couple of people have been trying to get certified in house and I have been holding back on that.

Alderman O'Neil asked so we won't see any significant reduction. You are just going to delay filling some positions for an extended period of time?

Mr. Ludwig answered that is right.

Alderman O'Neil stated I have one final thing. Kevin, I noticed that you have recommended or the Mayor has recommended \$20,000 in civic contributions. What is the balance in that account?

Mr. Clougherty replied the balance would be exhausted with the use of that \$20,000. The major part was for the animal shelter.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated first I would just like to thank the Police Chief for his honest answer. I think it opened up a can of worms, but I think we appreciate honesty. Obviously if you are taking money away you are going to cut back in services some way. I just did want to say then that I have confidence that the Chief will not put one ward or one part of the City against another part in regard to one comment was made that I don't want any cuts in my ward. I think all wards should be treated fairly and everybody in this City is paying property taxes so we shouldn't put one ward against another. I have confidence that the Police Chief will not do that. My question is with Carol. It seems like it was another lifetime ago but you mentioned in your dissertation to us that part of the problem with Welfare was philosophical differences. Do you remember using those words, philosophical differences? I just wanted you to flesh out what that means. Does that mean that the current Welfare Commissioner is more generous in supplying rooms to people and there could be a different philosophy where we might not be as generous of course always living within State laws? Is that what you meant by philosophical differences? I don't want to put words in your mouth.



Deputy Clerk Johnson replied I guess by philosophical I am just stating a matter of how somebody goes about something or what their thought process is. My impression is that Welfare can be used as a charitable organization. It can be utilized as merely an assistance process strictly adhering to guidelines and State law. I think that...and there is some middle ground there in between those two extremes and I think that there are things that you can do as a Commissioner to curtail some of your costs while still working with other agencies to do case management and other things that is not being done. You have case workers there with 100 people on a caseload and that is going to affect what they can and can't do but certainly if they are given a certain set of instructions and they have to see a supervisor to have any leeway with that set of instructions it can create some difficulties in the process when there is no supervisor to go to.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked are all other cities and towns experiencing a similar type of over spending by their Welfare Department or is this unique to Manchester.

Deputy Clerk Johnson answered I have not personally spoken with any of the Welfare Commissioners from other communities at this time so I really can't comment as to what they are doing. I can only state the facts of what is being experienced and again I have spent very little time there and it is very preliminary to make any real comment about it at this time. I think that in my discussion with Mr. Martineau he certainly intends to make some changes that I think will perhaps bring some of those costs down but you do have an economic situation that has to be looked at as well. I think you could curtail some of it perhaps but I don't want to speak before I have all of your information for you.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated the citizens of Manchester might be interested in knowing if there is something particularly that is unique to Manchester that is precipitating this or if this is a problem across the State and I am sure we look forward to getting that kind of information. As far as changing any State laws, I think it is always interesting to try to do but you have to realize that it is a very cumbersome process and it is certainly not anything that is going to happen that would be helpful for this year and there will probably be reluctance among some of the other small towns or larger towns in the State to do that. I am not sure we should look for that as a God send. I have no problem supporting this at this time. I would just say remember your budget called for spending \$100,000 less on that Welfare line item and we added that in so we would be even in greater difficulty if we hadn't done that.

Mayor Baines replied you never know. It is one of those situations. No one ever anticipated a line item going over this significantly.

Alderman Lopez stated I think we ought to move forward on this because I understand that all of this is going into contingency. Before we do that, I think that Alderman Gatsas made a point and I wish the City Solicitor would take a good look at the appropriation side on the

6.05 C. I think that if we appropriated the money and the Finance Officer indicates that the money is there then we as the Board of Mayor and Aldermen can move the money to any place we want. It gives the Mayor the authority to move money around within the department but the appropriation that this Board gave, I think Alderman Gatsas is absolutely correct under 6.05 C.

Mayor Baines replied well we can explore that and report back to the Board.

Alderman Gatsas stated I have a real problem that for the safety of the citizens of this City that we aren't looking at reserves in worker's compensation and health insurance before we start cutting City and Fire budgets. I look at Alderman O'Neil and I commend him on all of the times he has fought for those departments and for some reason he is being a little easy tonight and I say that there are funds elsewhere that this Board has moved and there is absolutely no reason why we should move on this proposal until we move those funds first before we put any citizen or any streets that are supposed to be resurfaced in this City at risk. I think it is absolutely not prudent to do.

Mayor Baines replied again I disagree. We are not putting anyone at risk with what we are doing here. What we are doing is trying to manage a very difficult situation of putting money in contingency and we will respond to department heads with anything of that nature. To give any illusion at all that we are putting anyone at risk is not fair. Can we look at some other sources? We would be delighted to do so?

Alderman Gatsas responded then let's look at them before we move on this motion.

Mayor Baines replied all we are asking is to put this money in contingency. That is all we are asking here.

Alderman Gatsas stated then let's take the money from the reserve accounts and put that in contingency.

Mayor Baines replied what I am asking the Board to do is suspend the rules...

Alderman Gatsas moved to table the resolution.

Mayor Baines responded I am on accepting it. I am asking the Board to suspend the rules and place the resolution on its final reading without referral to the Finance Committee.

Alderman Pariseau moved to suspend the rules and place the resolution on its final reading without referral to the Finance Committee. Alderman Shea duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Gatsas requested a roll call vote. Aldermen Gatsas, Levasseur, and Hirschmann voted nay. Aldermen Sysyn, Pinard, O'Neil, Lopez, Shea, Vaillancourt, Pariseau, Cashin, Thibault, and Wihby voted yea. The motion carried.

Alderman O'Neil asked have we made a commitment, your Honor, that you are going to follow-up and see if there are any other sources of funds.

Mayor Baines answered absolutely.

Alderman O'Neil asked and you will keep the Board informed.

Mayor Baines answered yes.

Alderman Lopez moved to read the Resolution by title only. Alderman Thibault duly seconded the motion.

Mayor Baines called for a vote. The motion carried with Alderman Hirschmann being duly recorded in opposition.

“Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a transfer of Eight Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$880,000) from Specific City Department Accounts to Contingency for Remedial Action regarding the Fiscal Year 2002 Welfare Department Operating Budget.”

Alderman Thibault moved to enroll the Resolution. Alderman Shea duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated the figure \$880,000 has been mentioned and you mentioned the figure of \$1 million. Can you tell us the difference between the \$880,000 and the \$1 million?

Mr. Clougherty replied the additional \$120,000 is already in contingency.

Mayor Baines called for a vote. The motion carried with Aldermen Hirschmann, Levasseur and Gatsas being duly recorded in opposition.

Alderman Gatsas gave notice for reconsideration.

Alderman Hirschmann stated I just want it said on the record, your Honor, that I would have gladly supported the bail out of Welfare but not at the expense of public safety, fire or police. I have done my stance for six years and that is how I want to go out of this room.

Alderman Lopez stated I have three things. I would ask the City Solicitor to please look at 6.05 C. Secondly, does the Welfare Commissioner-Elect have an office that he can work out of yet?

Mayor Baines replied I have advised the Commissioner and again as you can imagine this is a very delicate situation that we are trying to manage here but I have advised the Commissioner-Elect that he should have access to a space at the Welfare Department as I was afforded as Mayor-Elect to the City in City Hall. He has every right to be over there to plan his transition so that when he takes the oath of office on January 1 he can be prepared to assume that responsibility. He is planning to be around a couple of weeks before and he plans to avail himself of that office. I expect him to have access to the Welfare Office during this period of transition.

Alderman Lopez stated the last thing I would like to talk about and we can refer it to Committee if you want but I think it is very important but the parking problem and no matter what we did we have more parking than anybody anticipated. Alderman Thibault made a recommendation for \$1 surcharge per ticket and I think we should send this to the Committee on Administration or something to look into this. I understand that the civic center has approval or veto power but I can tell you that if people are going to spend \$75 or \$80 to go see a show or \$350 I think we have to look at negotiating the \$1 surcharge per ticket.

Mayor Baines replied it is a lot easier said than done and people need to know that there were a lot of agreements made that should go to the Special Committee on the Civic Center for further explanation but it is not easy.

Alderman Lopez moved to refer the item to the Special Committee on the Civic Center.

Mayor Baines replied the Clerk will make a note of that.

Alderman Thibault stated Kevin Clougherty is in the know of this. We have been trying to get a meeting together with the attorney that formulated this and what I want to check and make sure of is that this Board, in fact, passed the \$1 surcharge. In my opinion, some of the wording was changed when it got to SMG and this is what I want to check on. If it did change how come it didn't come back to this Board to be changed? I go along with Alderman Lopez on this 1000% and I am going to fight them until I am blue in the face.

Alderman Levasseur stated I would like to make a point. I don't know if the paper quoted somebody wrong but it said that the Board had unanimously voted to allow that \$1 surcharge. I remember the unanimous vote was to look into it. I never voted to put on \$1 surcharge.

Mayor Baines replied that was the previous Board.

Alderman Wihby stated there has been a lot said about the parking and a lot of press about the parking but we don't know where we stand yet. What we are waiting to do is get some numbers, work on it, see if we can get the numbers higher, see how much we are going to be short and again just because the parking monies are short doesn't mean that the other revenues aren't going to be higher to compensate for it. We are trying to see where we stand first and then we will look at all of the different options. We can look at licensing those people or not letting them park there or adding \$1 to the ticket or leaving it like it is or taking the meters out completely. There are a lot of different options that could be looked at. Nobody has looked at one. Everything is on the table and until we know where we stand, we really can't do anything. We are waiting for the numbers to come in and we are waiting to see what our total revenues are.

Mayor Baines replied I think we should just relax and let people get accustomed to what is happening and then we will re-evaluate it at an appropriate time.

Alderman Gatsas stated we are into this less than 25 days. I would think that if somebody would have expected that we were going to have 10,000 people going to events that we would have worried about it. There are less than 25 days into this. Let's just move along and wait and see what is going to happen.

There being no further business, on motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Thibault, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk